



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

2010-0270 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meetings of December 9, 2010 and December 14, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0262 Introduction of an Ordinance on the Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0263 Setting a Public Hearing Date on an Ordinance for the Thames Street Rehabilitation Program

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0264 CGS 8-24 Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Program to City Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0265 CGS 8-24 Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Program to Planning Commission

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0266 Introduction of an Ordinance for the Phase II School Facilities Program

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Monteiro questioned the addition to the ordinance of the construction of an all-weather field at Fitch. Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri noted the field is critically needed and has been included in the CIP. He stated that in the past, he has talked about two fields, one at Fitch and one in the area of the middle school. No changes to the fields at Poquonnock Plains Park are proposed. Councilor Monteiro asked why the work at Fitch wasn't done during Phase I and Mr. Kadri stated he did not know.

Councilor O'Beirne looked through the McKissick presentation and finally found a mention of the field. However, he noted the construction costs were not consistent and were lower than what it is now projected. Mr. Kadri stated the total cost includes bonding costs and architectural fees. The total cost of the project has not changed and will not change whether the costs come in lower or higher.

Discussion followed on how the field was originally included in the CIP and rejected by the Council. Councilor Johnson recalled asking that the field be included in the Phase II Schools Project.

Councilor Watson noted he is not happy that there is no pool included in the project.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed his extreme unhappiness with the plan and opposition to it, but indicated his willingness to send it to the voters. Councilor Sheets expressed her disappointment with moving the middle school site from the King property to the Claude Chester site, but stated she too would support sending the referendum to the voters. Mayor Streeter expressed his concerns and agreed that it is appropriate to send it to the voters. Councilor Flax noted that the Phase II School Design Committee and Superintendent of Schools voted to support the Claude Chester site so the Council should send it to the voters. He suggested that a significant public education program will be necessary to pass the referendum. Councilor Monteiro also expressed reservation about the site, but supports sending the bond ordinance to the voters.

Mr. Kadri explained his plan for cost savings. Councilor O'Beirne expressed skepticism given the experience with Phase I and projected cost savings that did not materialize.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0267 Setting a Public Hearing Date on an Ordinance for the Phase II School Facilities Program

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0268 CGS 8-24 Referral of Phase II School Facilities Program to Planning Commission

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0272 CGS 8-24 Referral of Phase II School Facilities Program to City Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo reviewed the fiscal impact statement with the Council. The Town's debt policy requires an estimate of debt impact from the Thames Street and Schools projects. Mr. Pandolfo presented tables showing the impact of the Thames Street project on the

mill rate; the impact of the Schools project on the mill rate; debt service payments associated with the Thames Street project; debt service payments associated with the Schools project; the combined debt service impact; and a comparison of current debt limit to statutory debt limit and Town Council policy.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.